mode of acquisition and compensation to be given in terms of section 21. Therefore, in order to clarify the position unequivocally regarding the transaction of acquisition of uranium, it would be better to insert a new section stating that acquisition of uranium both under section 6 and 11 would not amount the same. A new section 11A is, therefore, proposed to be inserted retrospectively so as to make it clear beyond doubt that the compulsory acquisition under section 6 and 11 shall not be deemed to be a sale for any purpose whatsoever. The proposed measures have come into force with retrospective effect from the original date of commencement of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.

The proposed amendments are purely clarificatory in nature and do not involve any substantial change in the provisions of the Act. As such this is a simple Bill. I commend the Bill.

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, you have said that we will adjourn for lunch now.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): We have got 15 minutes to go.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: That means, I will get only 15 minutes. I shall not be able to complete within 15 minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): No ...

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): We can delay the House. We can always adjourn earlier also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): We are already running short of time. There is a lot of business to be transacted.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: From 1.15 P.M. to 2.15 P.M. we can adjourn for lunch. That will be much better.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): The House is now adjourned to meet again at 2.15 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at seventeen minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at seventeen minutes past two of the clock, the Vice-Chairman (Shri M. P. Kaushik) in the Chair.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

III. Correcting the reply, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th November, 1986 to Starred Question 97 regard the Vice-Chairman (Shri M. P. Kaushik) High Court.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am sorry, I was not here at 11 a.m. because of the conference which was convened elsewhere. Sir, in reply to parts (a), (b) & (c) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 97 for the 10th November, 1986 by Shri F. M. Khan, it was stated: 'There are at present 4 vacancies of Judges in Karnataka High Court. The Government of Karnataka had, in consultation with the former Chief Justice of the State High Court and the Governor, sent recommendations for appointments to these vacancies. These recommendations have been referred to the Chief Justice of India for his views. The Chief Justice of India has not yet sent his views'.

An error has inadvertently crept in. The recommendations received from the Government of Karnataka, in consultation with the former Chief Justice of the State High Court and the Governor, had been sent to the new Chief Justice of the High Court for his views and these were awaited. The views of the Chief Justice of the High Court regarding some persons were received on 10th November, 1986 itself, and the recommendations of the State Government were actually referred to the Chief Justice of India for advice later. The advice of the Chief Justice of India has since been received.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. KAUSHIK): Dr. R. K. Poddar. (*Interruption*).

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Does he explain the inadvertence? I mean how it came?

SHRI ASKOKE KUMAR SEN: Sir, it was because the recommendations of the new Chief Justice of the High Court came only on the 10th of November, 1986 and it was not in our hands by the time the answer was given.

THE ATOMIC ENERGY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1986— Contd.

DR. R. K. PODDAR (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is an innocuous Bill, a small amendment to the existing Atomic Energy Act. Sir, there must have been a lot of litigations in the meantime. The Act was passed in 1962. I do not know why the Government did not amend the Act in the meantime. So there is nothing to oppose. But I hope you will be kind enough to allow me to make some comments on the fuel position of atomic power in our country.

At present, India's atomic power programme is based on natural uranium as fuel and pressurised heavy water as moderator. India is self-reliant in both at this moment. But how about the future? Atomic power is only about 2 per cent of our total power generation. In advanced countries, it varies from about 12 to 30 per cent. Within the next 15 years, we also propose to increase several-fold our atomic power generation. So, unless our prospecting and mining for uranium are stepped up vigorously, we are sure to face shortage.

Atomic power from our fast breeder reactors for industrial and commercial purposes which would free us fom our heavy dependence on uranium, is still a futuristic possibility, although a bright possibility. Only a part of the 73,000 tonnes of inferred uranium ore deposits, according to official estimates, is at present being mined, mainly at the underground mines of Jaduguda in Bihar, although encouraging prospects exist in some parts of Rajasthan, Karnataka, Meghalaya and Andhra Pradesh. The quality of our uranium ore being poorer than most other countries, our efforts must be more vigorous both with regard to mining and with regard to efficiency of extraction. So in this regard I would like to ask the Government through you, Sir, what the present position is with regard to the very ambitious Narwapahar and Turamdih open-cast mining projects prepared by the Atomic Energy Minerals Division of the Department of Atomic involving an expenditure of about Rs. 213 crores. Perhaps it is still lying with the the Government. These projects envisage mining at about a depth of 550 metres and more. Now, in this regard I would give an example to show how lethargic the Government machinery could be. About 30 sq. kms of Orissa's foreshore territory between Gopalpur and Ganjam is endowed with the world's biggest known deposits of radioactive sands which also contain various rare-earth minerals, which are essential for nuclear reactors as well as for many industrial uses. A Rs. 110-crore project utilising these resources has only recently come up under the Department of Atomic Energy, but this project was conceived about 18 years ago in 1968. Meanwhile, as you know, prices have gone up several-fold.

We had to go for natural uranium—heavy water system for our atomic power programme because we do not have, we have to admit, the capability of producing enriched uranium, although atomic energy from enriched uranium and ordinary water reactors is considerably less expensive, less hazardous and technologically simpler to produce.

It is an open secret that in the 'fifties, there was tremendous international pressure on us not to produce enriched uranium. But many patriotic scientists such as Prof. Meghnath Saha strongly protested against it and advised the Government not to pay heed to this pressure. But the Government obviously did not pay heed to Prof. Saha's advice for going ahead for this kind of programme. Anyway that is an old story.